

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated June 2, 2005, claims 5 and 9 are amended, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-14 are canceled. Claims 5 and 9 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whiting et al. (USPN 6,034,716) in view of Houston (USPN 6,477,312).

Claims 8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whiting et al. (USPN 6,034,716) in view of Houston (USPN 6,477,312), and in further view of Nakao et al. (USPN 6,587,507).

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whiting et al. (USPN 6,034,716) in view of Houston (USPN 6,477,312), and in further view of Okino et al. (USPN 5,920,349).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whiting et al. (USPN 6,034,716) in view of Houston (USPN 6,477,312), and in further view of Parulski et al. (USPN 5,563,658).

The indication that claims 5 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

To expedite prosecution, claim 5 is amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1 and claim 9 is amended to include all the limitations of base claim 1

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and intervening claim 8. Consequently, amended claims 5 and 9 are believed to be allowable. In addition, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-14 are cancelled.

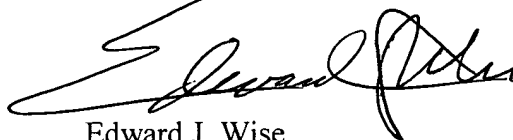
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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